

well-paid nurse to-day than it was in Thackeray's time and pictured by him as follows: "What love, what fidelity, what constancy is there equal to that of a nurse with good wages? They smooth pillows and make arrow-root. They get up at nights; they hear complaints and querulousness; they see the sun shining out of doors and don't want to go abroad; they sleep on arm chairs and eat their meals in solitude; they pass long, long evenings doing nothing, watching the embers, and the patient's drink simmering in the jug; they read the weekly papers the whole week through, and Law's 'Serious Call' or 'The Whole Duty of Man' suffices them for literature for the year."

We will hope that the great majority of nurses are those faithful ones who "unmoved by threatening or reward" do their duty, each earning for herself the commendation "She hath done what she could."

REASONS FOR CENTRAL REGISTRIES AND CLUB HOUSES

BY LINNA T. RICHARDSON
Portland, Oregon

THE reason for the existence of any business is that the firm conducting that business can supply the demand for a certain line of goods more quickly, in greater variety, and cheaper than the individual can procure the same goods for himself.

The nursing profession handles a commodity that is greatly needed when it is needed at all. Quality and quick delivery count for as much, perhaps for more in our market, than in that of other lines of business.

A central directory is a clearing house for nurses, and as such will require an operative system that has been tested and found reliable.

I believe in central directories conducted by nurses. If the demand is not supplied by the nursing profession, it will be supplied by people in other lines of business to the detriment of nurses, as often happens when the names of nurses are used as an advertising medium to attract attention to some one's more profitable wares. We do well to realize that nothing of value is obtained in this world free of cost.

A profession whose mission is to save life is surely equal to the task of *self-preservation*, *self-government*, *self-support*, and *self-respect*.

At the same time it is true that "no man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself," and I am convinced that there is no such thing as independence as we are accustomed to think of it, but that interdependence is that which exists in its stead.

The world was not made for the advancement of the individual, rather the individual for the advancement of the world. Therefore if we take our place as a worthy profession should, we must consider the world that we serve in our professional life. That which will advance the interests of humanity will greatly advance the interests of our profession in the service of humanity.

The nursing world and the world to be nursed is fast learning the value of state registration of nurses. Hand in hand with that knowledge will come the realization of the value of central registries and homes for nurses. Humanity is the gainer by both of these advance movements. The successful nurse of the future is the wise nurse of the future. And she is wise who is broad-minded enough to consider her own welfare through every advance movement that can be used for the betterment of conditions now existing.

When thousands of people engaged in one line of work shall have the same ideals and the same ambitions, their wishes as expressed by their representatives will have weight with the people who need their services. In union there is strength, and this is an age of organization. To be able to advance the interests of the nursing profession we must therefore be united and well organized.

If western nurses have caught the true spirit in regard to the need of registries and club-houses, it is not because of any special farsightedness, but rather because of dire necessity.

The fertile field of the west is so likely to become a dumping ground of the unfit that self-protection is forced upon the people of the west at times. Therefore there is great necessity for registries and clubs where the many *fine* nurses that come to us may be assured of a welcome, and find a place to which they have equal right with the best in the profession. The registries that welcome the best tend to discourage the unfit who are in the profession, and we must admit that they are not a few.

Nothing that is worth while is accomplished without sacrifice, by the one for the many or the many for the few, and pioneers in movements for the benefit of any class do not lie on beds of roses. They find that every victory over prejudice, and every advance step taken, is the result of much expenditure of energy, and is sometimes accompanied by wounds and weariness. If the spirit behind the pioneer is what it ought to be these things will not lessen her efforts, for she will know that the best way out of all difficulties is forward.

It has often been said in my hearing that nurses are not good business women. If that is true, and I am inclined to think that it may

be true of many, it would be a great advantage to nurses to become good business women in short order.

Men of capital and business sagacity know that it pays and pays well to build apartment houses and hotels. They expect a return of from 10 to 17 per cent. on the money invested.

Nurses could as well have their money earning that interest as to be paying the same to the capitalist. The large profit in a building goes to the owner of the building and comparatively small profit to the person who is responsible for the success of the house and the problem of making it pay.

I feel sure that any large alumnae, or state association could form within itself a syndicate of women who could invest the capital necessary to build such houses as women need, and themselves have good returns on their investment, and the nurses so housed have better and cheaper homes than they could provide for themselves in any other way. They would do well to build much larger than they could at first use for nurses, filling the surplus room with business women. Thus the future would be provided for, and the present be made more livable by intercourse with women in other lines of work. Association with the women of the business world is helpful to nurses and a good thing for the business women as well. The effect is broadening and nurses need broadening as much as any class of people now living.

As to the building itself, I find that a house which makes it possible for a woman to economize for herself is the most desirable. The real woman is not anxious to do as little as she can for herself, but rather to do all that she can and do it well. Cooking for nurses is not satisfactory to nurses or to those responsible for the financial end of the undertaking. When a nurse does her own catering she makes herself pay the penalty of her extravagance if she is extravagant, and gives herself the benefit of her own economy if she is economical. There is no one to blame if she is not suited, and no one but herself to profit by her frugality. Therefore the house that I have recently completed meets a great need perfectly. A general dining-room would be run at a loss in a house where women of such uncertain habits are to abound and flourish.

The house that I find so satisfactory has a public parlor, is well supplied with baths, has a fine large laundry and drying room. The office and 'phone service is well regulated. The apartments large and small have each a small kitchenette in which every convenience is found though in a very small space. There is a sink, hot and cold water, shelves for supplies, place for a hot plate, an ironing board in the wall,

and the light and ventilation are all that could be desired. The room has a disappearing bed, a large closet and a stationary bowl; the furniture is plain but substantial.

There are in every city nurses who are capable of running this kind of a house, and I hope that the time is not far distant when nurses will take the matter up and have homes of this kind owned by syndicates of nurses or by associations of nurses in every large city.

Ours is a woman's profession in a man's world, and we need to realize that men will take much less interest in our advancement than we take in it ourselves. If that is so how much help can we expect outside of our own ranks? We shall not need help if we are interested in our profession first and ourselves last.

We are under laws made by men, we must pay tribute to Cæsar, for all things are Cæsar's. It is easy not to want to vote, not to try to build for ourselves, not to reason why it is easy, but in the end we must pay the price of our laxity and the price we can ill afford.

The products of our hands and brains are being appropriated to overflow the already full coffers of the rich of the world. Under such circumstances existence is fast becoming a problem which will be further complicated until women are willing to think and plan for women.

I do not even ask my sisters to excuse this little introduction of a few words in behalf of equal rights, if so you term it, because there are some things that we will consider later on though now we are inclined to shirk these seeming burdens, burdens that will one day become too great for us to bear.

I believe in *women*, as well as nurses, and I look for the time when women the world over will believe in each other and support every movement for the help of the women of the world of which, though nurses, we must ever be a part.

For the women in this convention to will is to do. There is no need to hesitate, but there is need to be united, and interested and anxious to make every effort tell for the good of the whole in the profession of nursing.

MISS GLADWIN.—Before we go any further may I make a motion that we appoint three committees to formulate a plan for district nursing, the care of the tuberculous, and the nursing of the insane, these committees to report at our next annual meeting.

The motion was carried.

MISS PICKHARDT.—I believe that only one-third of the members of the Associated Alumnae are subscribers of the JOURNAL. I would move that every nurse who is a subscriber at the present time ask for a subscription blank and give it to some member who is not. Our membership is fourteen thousand.

The president asked for information in regard to the publication of the proceedings of the convention in the *JOURNAL*, explaining that the *JOURNAL* company could not assume the cost of the publication of the full proceedings and all the papers, but would do so to the extent of an ordinary number.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the proceedings should be published in the *JOURNAL* and, by motion of Miss Delano, that the Associated Alumnae finance the additional expense and that the publication committee be empowered to cut down the material sufficiently to meet such appropriation as the Executive Committee might determine upon.

MISS COOKE.—In considering the reorganization of the association it seems to me that a very advisable thing to do would be to make the dues include the subscription to the official organ of the association. All members then would receive a copy of the magazine and it would rest with them whether or not they kept in touch with what was going on in the association; the amount coming in would cover all the expense of printing the proceedings of the meetings, which would go into history, and those of us who are interested in preserving them would have them on file. It seems to me the official organ is the place for the proceedings in full. We never can make the progress we should make until a radical step is taken to include the official organ in our dues. We then would have sufficient funds to develop the work.

I wish to make a motion to the effect that in the re-arrangement of the by-laws there shall be incorporated a plan that shall include in the dues of the affiliated societies the subscription price of the official organ, the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*.

The motion was seconded by Miss Dock.

THE PRESIDENT.—The state societies are only affiliated now and have only one vote. It would be rather difficult to formulate a plan which would include the cost of the official organ for each member of the association, because at present the members who are included in alumnae societies are assessed only twenty cents per member, and to put the dues up to include the *JOURNAL* might work a hardship. It might be done with permanent members. If we increase as rapidly in the future as we have in the last four years there will not be many paying dues.

MISS COOKE.—I recognize the problem that is involved and there would be a great deal of dissatisfaction at the beginning, but if we can solve the problem by starting it in a tangible way those that come after us will take it as a matter of course so far as the little expense is concerned, and it seems to me if each affiliated association will send in its list of members and be responsible for their dues, and the dues raised to include the official organ of the association, it will be only a question of a short time before matters will resume their normal condition. It is an educational work and we have to pay for it, and if we are going to have the educational work done in a satisfactory way every member must have the benefit of the magazine. We have a year to study over this. I wish merely to have submitted a tangible plan to handle this matter. Those who come after us will take it as a matter of course even if it were five dollars a year they had to pay. The educational work would be simplified all over the country.

This is merely a suggestion to get it in tangible shape. What would it be if we paid ten to fifteen dollars a year if we did something to further the work

of education by the national association? There would be trouble for a time, but after it is once over it would be fixed for all time. There would be no further worry. We would have a reserve fund. This is a problem we have to solve.

When we think of the advantages to the women who have spent so many years in attending to the affairs of our association I think we should feel willing to spend ten or fifteen dollars a year to advance our educational interests. When I think of the money these women have given, of the sacrifices they have made, and the time they have devoted to our interest I think this thing should be done.

Originally in California we started out with our little state journal and asked the members to subscribe. They were very much pleased with the journal. Before the subscription expired we put in a notice asking them to renew their subscriptions before a certain date. That date came and the subscriptions were not in, but they told us how much they enjoyed the journal. I felt we must establish the journal and unless we had some other means than voluntary subscriptions we could not continue it. We brought the matter before our association at one of the annual meetings and it caused considerable discussion at first, some stormed, but after finding out what a year's issue of our magazine had done for the association and the good work that could be done on the coast they began to consider it more favorably, and we finally succeeded in having it included in the dues. To-day there is no question about it, and if it cost twice as much they would have it. It is only the beginning that is going to cause a little dissatisfaction. Those who come after us will take it as a matter of course. Our dues with a journal subscription are \$1.50 in those three states. The by-laws state that it is the official organ of the association. Something of the same kind could be adopted by the Associated Alumne. It seems to me the additional cost should hardly be considered when we think of the immense amount of educational work that could be accomplished in this way. We only need to make a break to establish it.

MISS ELDREDGE.—If it is not out of order I would like to say that this association has grown to such proportions that we cannot tell where the members are from or who they are. Would it not be well in future conventions to have the various delegations seated in sections and have the voters separate so we may know who they are and where they are from. I will offer that as a motion.

MRS. BURRILL.—In the New York state convention we have signs indicating where each delegation is from.

THE PRESIDENT.—Each county has its standard and the delegates from that county sit under it.

MISS GOLDING.—I would suggest that Miss Eldredge add to her motion that the platform be placed in the middle of the hall.

The motion offered by Miss Eldredge was carried.

THE PRESIDENT.—It might be well to suggest to our training-school superintendents that they add another branch and teach pupils to speak loudly, but the general idea is that they are taught there to speak in very moderate tones, and it might be difficult to train them for private room work and for conventions also.

We have now come to the time for selecting the place for the next annual meeting. We should be very glad to receive invitations for next year's convention.

THE SECRETARY.—I think Miss Maxwell was appointed a committee to present these messages to us, but Miss Maxwell not being present I will read them.

The secretary then read invitations to meet in New York City from Mayor McClellan; Dr. A. S. Draper and Dr. A. Vander Veer of the Education Department; the New York State Nurses' Association; the New York County Association; and from St. Luke's Alumnae Association.

MISS AHRENS.—I move we accept this very kind and generous invitation from New York.

The motion was seconded by Miss Cooke and, being put to a vote, prevailed unanimously amidst applause.

The secretary read another invitation from the Missouri Alumnae Association extending an invitation to the association to hold its convention at St. Louis in 1911, which evoked great applause.

Other invitations received were from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, president of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, to the members to attend the International Congress in London; from the Washington State Association, to attend its annual convention in Seattle; from the Graduate Nurses' Association of Cleveland to attend its June meeting.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

The Committee on Resolutions have prepared and beg to present the following:

Resolved, That the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States extend hearty thanks and express its cordial appreciation to the Minnesota State Nurses' Association for its cordial welcome and unceasing and unfailing efforts for our welfare, comfort, convenience, and pleasure.

To the Commercial Club of Minneapolis and the City Council of St. Paul, for their material aid in our entertainment.

To the Rev. Andrew Gillies for his invocation of the divine blessing on our assemblage.

To Mrs. Sweetzer for her continued interest in our profession, and its manifestation in the delightful trolley trip to Minnehaha Falls.

To the officers of the association who have so ably conducted the sessions of our meeting, and to all members who have prepared papers for our edification and instruction.

To the merchants, who by furnishing and decorations have added to the beauty and comfort of our assembly and retiring rooms.

To Miss Edith Rommel and her able committee for their tireless effort and perfect achievement in arrangements and information.

To the nurses in the various cities en route, who have tendered welcome and entertainment, and to all who have extended such invitations for our return trip from the convention.

To Governor Johnson for his appreciative interest and helpful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

E. BALDWIN LOCKWOOD,
LOUISE PIERSON,
M. C. BURNETT,
Committee.

The following supplemental resolution was offered by request of the National W. C. T. U. and was unanimously adopted:

Inasmuch as the poverty, misery, and crime resulting from the use of alcohol and other narcotic drugs are in an aftermath of their action as physical poisons, we as women, as nurses, as health teachers, and as humanitarians

Resolve, That we will do all that we can, with professional propriety, to teach their nature and effect and discourage their use.

The following resolution relative to the moral prophylaxis movement was also submitted and adopted:

Resolved, That the outline of work in the moral prophylaxis movement as adopted at the American Federation of Nurses be adopted by the Committee on Public Health of this body, as its outline of work.

Outline of Work

1. Report on progress of legislation and enforcement of existing laws, prevention of prostitution, and limiting the spread of venereal disease.

2. Examine and recommend literature for nurses: (a) Professional as to extent and dangers of venereal disease; (b) Methods of instructing mothers and children.

3. To recommend for training schools courses in prevention of venereal diseases.

4. To further in state societies and alumnae associations the formation of similar committees.

REPORT OF INSPECTORS OF ELECTION, MISS FLORENCE F. HENDERSON, CHAIRMAN

You have elected the following officers: president, Miss Jane Delano, New York; first vice-president, Miss Genevieve Cooke, California; second vice-president, Mrs. A. R. Colvin, Minnesota; secretary, Miss Agnes Deans, Michigan; treasurer, Miss Anna Davids, New York; directors, Mrs. Hunter Robb, Ohio, Miss Annie Damer, New York. The officers-elect took their places on the platform and were formally introduced by the retiring president, Miss Damer, beginning with the president-elect, Miss Delano.

MISS JANE DELANO (President-elect).—I assure you my nomination and election came to me unexpectedly. It is a great honor to serve as your president during the ensuing year. However, it was my earnest desire that this honor should go to a western woman. We looked forward to Miss McIsaac being our president, but the work of this association must go on, it cannot stop because one person or another did not get office. I feel there is a tremendous responsibility resting upon the woman who occupies this position. However, I can only pledge to you my most sincere interest and my absolute willingness to do all in my power to carry out the ideals and purposes as outlined in this convention about to close. We have come west for this meeting and I think we will all take east with us a broader view of the west than we had when we came. I think we are all impressed with the beauty found and the big-hearted way they do things out here. I think we shall take away from this convention a better purpose and higher ideals, and it will be my aim to carry out to the extent of my ability the ideals that have been advanced here.

MISS DAMER (Retiring President).—Following the election of Miss Delano, a vacancy is left on the board of directors which will have to be filled.

On motion of Miss Deans, Mrs. Ida M. Tice, of Chicago, was unanimously chosen to serve out the term of Miss Delano as a member of the board of directors.

MISS RANKEILLOR (Minneapolis).—On behalf of the Minnesota Nurses' Association I want to express our thanks and appreciation to the Superintendents' Society and to the Associated Alumnae for the inspiration and encouragement they have lent us by their presence.

MISS GLADWIN.—I want to express appreciation for the work Miss Damer has done for the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*. During the past four years she has worked untiringly for its progress.

MISS GOODRICH.—As chairman of the Hospital Economics Committee I want to express appreciation of the work she has done for that course. The effect of her work has reached to the coast and we feel deeply grateful for her efforts in that behalf.

MISS NUTTING.—As a fellow member of the board of directors of the *JOURNAL* may I add my tribute to her untiring effort in handling the business end of the *JOURNAL*.

There being no further business to come before the house, the twelfth annual convention was declared adjourned.